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Serial No. 09/664,460 Art Unit No. 2682

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE, P.O. BOX 2327, ARLINGTON, VA 22202, ON DATE OF DEPOSIT: March 18, 2003 EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE NO: EU673634694US PERSON MAKING DEPOSIT: ANNE VACHON DOUGHERTY

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Technology Center 2600

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

March 18, 2003 In Re Application of :

Group Art No.: 2682 R. E. Chapman, Jr., et al :

Examiner: S. R. Sharma Serial No. 09/664,460

Filed: September 18, 2000 IBM Corporation

Anne Vachon Dougherty

3173 Cedar Road Title: TELEPHONE NETWORK Yorktown Heights, New York 10598-1964

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Sir:

NODE DEVICE

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 18, 2002 for the above-identified patent application. month shortened statutory period for this response is set to expire on March 18, 2003, and therefore, this is a response within the shortened statutory period. In response to the Office Action, the Applicants wish to amend the Patent Application as set forth below.